

PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 53394.000444
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

11. (new) A method for attaching a mechanical fastener to an absorbent article comprising the steps of:
- a) providing said absorbent article;
 - b) providing said mechanical fastener;
 - c) applying a slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive to said absorbent article in a target area; and
 - d) attaching said mechanical fastener to said absorbent article in the target area with said slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive under conditions sufficient to result in a mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond static shear strength of at least about 60 min/1.2kg.
12. (new) The method according to claim 1 wherein said mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond static shear strength is at least about 240 min/1.2kg.
13. (new) The method according to claim 1 wherein said absorbent article comprises an ear tab, an elastomer substrate attached to said ear tab, and a film substrate attached to said elastomer substrate, wherein said target area with slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive is located on said film substrate.
14. (new) The method according to claim 3 wherein said elastomer substrate is selected from the group consisting of a nonwoven and a laminate structure.
15. (new) The method according to claim 1 wherein said slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive is applied to the target area of said absorbent article at a temperature below about 325 °F.
16. (new) The method according to claim 1 wherein said slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive is applied to the target area of said absorbent article using a process selected

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from the group consisting of slot coating, solid shim coating, comb shim coating, and spray-on techniques.

17. (new) The method according to claim 1 wherein said slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive is applied to the target area of said absorbent article in an amount less than about 0.045 grams/target area.
18. (new) An absorbent article comprising:
 - a) a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - b) a liquid impervious backsheet joined to said topsheet;
 - c) an absorbent core positioned between said topsheet and said backsheet; and
 - d) at least one mechanical fastener positioned so as to secure the absorbent article to an intended user, wherein the mechanical fastener is attached to said absorbent article using a slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive under conditions sufficient to result in a mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond static shear strength of at least about 60 min/1.2kg.
19. (new) The absorbent article of claim 8 further comprising:
 - a) an ear tab attached to said backsheet;
 - b) an elastomer substrate attached to said ear tab; and
 - c) a film substrate attached to said elastomer substrate, wherein said mechanical fastener is attached to said film substrate.
20. (new) The absorbent article of claim 8 wherein said mechanical fastener is a hook fastener tab.